European Transport Safety Council

PRESS CONFERENCE INVITATION

"EU suffers from striking disparities in motorway safety"

10h00-11h00, 19 February 2008
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU
Rue du Commerce 44, B-1000 Brussels

Over 3,200 people are killed annually on EU motorways. The number represents just 8.5% of the total number of road deaths in the EU and has been going down steadily. However, the striking disparities in motorway safety between different European countries are a cause of concern.

On the 19th February ETSC will launch its new Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) ranking of motorway safety in 18 countries. The detailed analysis demonstrates a six-fold difference between the worst and the best performers in Europe and makes suggestions for bridging this wide gap.

While motorways represent less than 1% of the length of all paved roads in the EU, they account for up to one quarter of all kilometers driven. Enhancing motorway safety in the underperforming countries would have a strong spill-over effect that would bring about important associated improvements in the rest of the road network. The adoption of the proposed Directive on Infrastructure Safety should allow for a substantial improvement of the Trans-European Road Networks, introducing cost effective instruments to treat high risk sites such as road safety audits.

The European Parliament's Transport Committee is expected to adopt a Report on the Commission's proposal on the 26th February 2008. Speakers at the ETSC press conference will present evidence showing the need for the swift adoption of this piece of legislation and answer your questions:

- **Graziella Jost,** PIN Programme Manager
- **Ljubo Zajc,** Director General of the Directorate for Transport (MoT), Slovenia
- **John Dawson,** Chairman of EuroRAP
- **Enrico Grillo-Pasquarelli,** Director of Land Transport, DG TREN, European Commission

ETSC and the Slovenian EU Presidency look forward to meeting you at the press conference.

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